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Local woman has a passion for baking

See story on page 24

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8 Belhaven - Cromwell - $665,000
Breathtaking year round views of the CT River and lush PGA fairways greet you from almost every room of this stunning Estate home on the back nine at TPC River Highlands. Set directly on the golf course, this sophisticated home will wrap you in designer style everywhere you look. Relax and entertain in surroundings at once luxurious and comfortable. High end finishes include a chefs dream granite/Viking kitchen. Call for a private showing. 3441SF

4 Thistle Down - Cromwell
$499,900
Move right in to this immaculate 3BR Townhome on the front nine at TPC and experience the comfort and luxury of a beautifully upgraded home. Relax and enjoy life in this resort-at-home community set amid a lush and meticulously maintained PGA golf course. This is your chance to welcome friends in laid back luxury any day. 2035SF

7 Harwood Gardens - Cromwell
$468,000
Serenity awaits you on the large, lovely patio of this gorgeous home in a highly sought 55+ community. Every room greets you with warm, natural colors and stunning upgrades. Enjoy coffee and meals with friends in the bright, granite kitchen with breakfast bar and adjoining dining area. Visit here and you will never want to leave. 2455SF

4 Bonnie Briar - Cromwell
$540,000
Sunlight sparkles off the pond every morning as you enjoy your coffee in this bright 3BR Townhome. Stunning sunsets warm your porch and living room while you relax with friends. Walk right out to the 8th fairway at TPC from your patio any day you choose. This is a luxury lifestyle unlike any in CT. 2035SF

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QUOTE OF NOTE:

"Sugar and chocolate makes everybody happy." - *Anthy Manolakis*

See story page 24

ON THE COVER

Anthy Manolakis loves to embellish her Ellie's Sweet Treats with edible glitter.

Photo by Lisa Brisson
See story page 24

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CAMPAIGN 2017

Meet the candidates for Town Council

When voters go the polls Nov. 7, they will find eight candidates on the ballot seeking election to the Town Council. Cromwell LIFE asked each of them to submit a photo and respond to four questions to help residents cast an informed vote.

They were allowed a maximum of 500 words and editing was limited to style, grammar, punctuation and spelling. The questions are:

1) Property taxes are a major issue in town. How would you provide necessary town services with minimum effect on the local tax rate?

2) What should town officials do to attract new businesses to town?

3) Other than the subjects above, what do you see as the most important issue facing the town, and what would you do about it?

4) Is there any other information you would like to share with voters about your personal or professional qualifications, background, community involvement?

Here are their responses.

Frank Emanuele Jr.

Frank Emanuele Jr.
Republican

1. While we all want our roads maintained and our schools to be great, no one wants to pay more in taxes than necessary. By working together with the town manager and director of finance, we have a bonding rating that is AAA.

The Town Council has been working with all levels of government to make sure that we stay within are budgets and we have plans in place for growth for the years to come.

2. Over the past four years we have visited over 70 businesses in town to see how we can assist them in growing their businesses as well as getting to know the business owners. We have an annual Cromwell Works program held at the town hall to showcase businesses in town; this gives them a way to network.

We have been working closely with the town planner and the Economic Development Committee to build our northern tier as well as other areas all around the town of Cromwell.

3. Over the next 5-10 years Cromwell will be faced with renovations to ECS, CMS and the expansion of our library. These projects are very important to our town as we grow and prosper.

We have worked with Central Connecticut State University in partnership with our schools, as well as worked with business to help our young people play a bigger role in our community.

4. I am married for 21 years and lived in the town of Cromwell all those years. I have two children, one is a sophomore college the other is a junior in high school.

I have served for 12 years on the Board of Education and the past six years on the Town Council. I have worked in the insurance and financial field for 23 years.

I have an MBA from George Washington University and a bachelors form Central Connecticut State University. It has been my honor to serve the people of Cromwell. I have always put their interests first and will continue to do so.

James Demetriades

James Demetriades
Democrat

1. I want to protect services that you and your family depend on, be it education for our students or services for our seniors. One solution to prevent cuts to services would be to look into regionalizing services and working with our neighbors to share costs.

When Connecticut eliminated county government, our municipalities took on the burden of education, senior services, emergency services, utilities and public safety. We are overtaxed and underserviced.

This does not mean we give up local control of our school districts or water districts, rather we look for cost-sharing opportunities for services when possible, be it snow services or community events. I want your money to be used as effectively and productively as possible.

2. Cromwell is strategically located between Hartford and New Haven and yet we are not fully utilizing our strategic position within the knowledge corridor of New England. Connecticut is home to the greatest concentration of educated workers in the country. Let's use this to our advantage to welcome companies to Cromwell.

We need to promote small business through zoning reform cultivating businesses, not condos or luxury homes. A cornerstone in welcoming

businesses should be creating a "walkable" downtown with shops, restaurants and access to the Connecticut River. This will attract families to settle in our town and businesses to come, too.

As the saying goes, "If you build it, they will come." Look at Frisbee Park, each summer it now hosts weekly the Cromwell Farmers Market, one of the most successful community events in the area.

3. The most important issue is creating value for our taxpayers through working with our community partners. We need a town government that encourages more community-grown events. This would include bringing back the Riverport Festival.

Additionally, we need to think of creative ways to help develop and support our workforce. This includes creating a job resource center in the town library where local businesses can post hiring information and applicants can fill out applications at the town library.

I also want to develop a series of community forums and town halls to help connect people to their local government to address the hard issues head on and with civility. I am a trained mediator and facilitator and would love to help guide these discussions.

4. Given not only my ideas and passion, but also my previous work with Senator Paul Doyle and Representative Rosa DeLauro, and my current term as president of Quinnipiac Law School's Student Bar Association, I believe I am ready to work for you on Cromwell's Town Council.

I am young, energetic and optimistic and I heartedly believe by working together we can protect the services you and your family depend on whilst maintaining value for your tax dollars. We need to put people before politics. I hope to have your support Nov. 7.

Richard Newton
Republican

1. The most significant way to continue providing the services taxpayers want and need is to expand the business, commercial and industrial proportions of the grand List .

It is a known fact that residential taxpayers cannot afford to fund the services they need and desire. A well-rounded grand list will help distribute the tax burden. The continuing pursuit of state and federal grants is another opportunity to alleviate the burden on taxpayers. We are always searching for grants for infrastructure improvements and economic development.

2. We must continue to attract business, commercial and industrial development. In the past we have provided infrastructure improvements, developed a tax abatement program and conducted Town Council business visitations .

3. The one issue on everyone's mind today is the state of the economy at the state level. Their inability to even adopt a budget and the slashing of grants in the area of education and public works projects leaves towns in a quandary.

However, whatever the final determination is at the state level, we will persevere. We have been fiscally conservative and spend taxpayers dollars wisely. I believe we will weather whatever storm they send us.

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However, we should look for opportunities for more regionalization for better utilization of resources. Cost sharing of common needs to achieve economies of scale, etc.

Myron Johnson
Democrat

1. Indeed, property taxes are a major issue in our town. Our town budget has increased $1.2 million in each of the last six years. Surely we can do better, we should cut back on wasteful spending and be more responsible.

Every dollar spent should yield a return. We should explore new ways to create revenue, if successful, that would ease the burden on residential taxpayers and improve our way of life.

2. How do you attract business? In my opinion, we must invest more heavily in marketing and advertising, making the public more aware of what the town has to offer.

Initially, the previous town manager had formed a Redevelopment Agency. The Redevelopment Agency has certain authority from the state statutes to buy and sell land for planned development . This is a good start.

Also, simplify zoning regulations, making them easier to understand, minimizing gray areas that consume valuable resources during the application process. Good proposals should move quickly through the system, encouraging others to follow while creating a business-friendly environment.

3. The town is embroiled in several lawsuits. Poor decision making has plagued this administration, changes need to be made that would more stabilize things moving forward.

4. I am a lifetime resident of Cromwell and local contractor. My interest is to better our community by bringing whatever knowledge from the private sector to our town government.

In the past, I served as a member of the Board of Selectmen from 2005 through 2009. During my term we were able to build welcome signs and the town hall sign.

Working with the Department of Transportation, I proposed mitigation solutions for traffic congestion entering town. Finally, I proposed and designed a beautiful dedication at Valour Memorial Park honoring our war veterans.

I would like to be involved and have more influence on issues, being a strong voice on behalf of the people in the community.

Samantha Slade
Republican

1. Cromwell is facing the possibility of unprecedented budget cuts from the state of Connecticut and we need to be mindful of how we spend every dollar. Whether it's $5 million or $5, I have been charged with dealing with Cromwell residents' money and I take that very seriously.

While Cromwell has been fiscally responsible with its spending, the Town Council and Board of Finance will need to evaluate and prioritize all of our spending with a heightened level of scrutiny. Cromwell has positioned itself well and I'm committed to maintain that positioning.

Minimizing any taxes increases while providing quality services for our residents is always my goal.

2. Cromwell is in a very competitive region and we have been working diligently to entice new businesses to make Cromwell their home. Realizing that we are the crossroads of Connecticut, we have identified areas in town where we can grow and have provided enticing packages to would-be businesses.

Through these efforts we are telling the world Cromwell is open for business. We now have Arrett Sales, a wholesale lawn and garden distributor, making Cromwell its home in a brand new 356,000-square-foot facility in our northern

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tier development.

While we want to entice new businesses to make Cromwell their home, my colleagues and I also realize that maintaining good collaborative relationships with current businesses is just as important. The mayor and Town Council go on monthly business tours in order to learn more about the businesses in town and provide them with an opportunity for dialogue with the town's elected officials.

3. Not an issue, but something always to be cognizant of, is providing the highest-quality services to our residents within our means. If we can, we absolutely should.

Projects like the walking trail, the splash pad, and the improvements to Cromwell Landing are prime examples of providing additional amenities to our residents through grant funding and/or are cost effective. Cromwell needs to continue to look for these types of opportunities and seize them when available.

We must also be vigilant in providing high-quality services to our most vulnerable citizens: children, seniors and the disabled. These individuals require our assistance the most and whenever we can provide them with additional opportunities and assistance we must.

We have a number of programs and services currently available but we must always keep them in mind when making decisions for Cromwell's future.

4. I am an active firefighter and emergency medical responder for the Cromwell Fire Department, the chair of the Cromwell division of the Greater Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade and a member of the American Legion. Giving back to the community is not only something I take part in voluntarily, but professionally.

I have worked in nonprofits and the public sector my entire life and am currently an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. I earned my bachelor of arts degree in history from St. Joseph College (University of St. Joseph) and master of arts degree in communication from the University of Hartford.

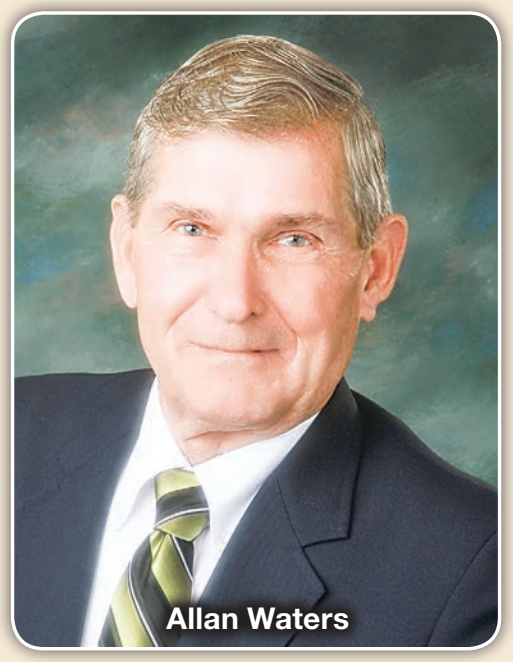
Allan Waters
Democrat

1. Town services can be provided by controlling spending and using our surplus money wisely. Contracts must be carefully examined. We should reduce spending on unnecessary pet projects and avoid increasing expenses like the town manager's salary.

Without knowing the level of reimbursement we'll be getting from the state, our town government should stop wasting money foolishly.

2. The town is already proving successful in attracting new businesses with tax abatements. We should continue to give reasonable tax abatements on equipment and inventory.

3. The most important issue facing Cromwell


Allan Waters

today is our lack of open government. Transparency and communication are vital for government to run smoothly, but instead some of our current officials prefer not to disclose issues that affect us all.

Look how long it took for people to find out that the town was being sued for discrimination. This mismanagement and favoritism has to stop.

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Through the years I have always spoken up on behalf of the taxpayers and asked the questions that needed to be asked. If I am fortunate enough to be re-elected, I will continue to look out for the best interests of the town and keep everyone informed about what is really happening and why.

4. I am a lifelong resident of Cromwell and a former small business owner for 45 years. I was the 2013 recipient of the Community Service and Involvement Award from the Cromwell Athletic Club. In 2015 the Cromwell Knights of Columbus named me man of the year.

I have been a very active volunteer for many community organizations and instrumental in organizing the annual Memorial Day Parade. I have been involved in Cromwell government for more than 20 years, including 12 years as a member of the Board of Selectmen and four years on the Town Council.

Allan Spotts

Allan Spotts
Republican

1. Even given the lack of a state budget, I believe that the town can provide the current services to our citizens without any property tax increases. Cromwell has been fiscally conservative in the last four years. The town has held the line on spending, it has a triple A bond rating along with a surplus of $1 million.

All these factors give us the ability that other communities do not have to continue to provide services to our residents without raising property taxes. No one can predict the immediate future, but I strongly believe that Cromwell is in a strong position to survive this fiscal crisis caused by the state of Connecticut's inability to pass a budget.

2. We will work closely with our EDC coordinator and the Economic Development Commission to look for business opportunities. The town should and will offer tax deferrals to companies who indicate a desire to come to Cromwell. If Cromwell does not give incentives to businesses we will lose them to neighboring towns.

It is also important that we continue the initiative begun by Mayor Faienza to visit our current businesses to let them know we care about how they are succeeding and to help them in any way possible. We want current and potential businesses to know that Cromwell is open for business and will do whatever we can to help them. If we can grow our tax base it is a win for our taxpayers.

3. It is important to continue our road improvement program. Our infrastructure is not only important to our residents but to potential new businesses. Within the last four years the town has been able to fix and repave more roads than ever before in our history.

4. I have lived in Cromwell for the past 32 years. I am a 1973 graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a degree in business administration. I began my service to the town back in 1999 when I served on the 350th and 150th Cromwell Anniversary Committee. Many of you may remember me as the one selling T-shirts, sweat shirts, etc., wherever I could to help raise money to offset celebration expenses.

I have served as chair or co-chair of the Cromwell Riverport Festival for the past 10 years or more. I have proudly served on the Board of Selectmen/Town Council for eight years. I was also honored as the Cromwell man of the year in January 2016.

Currently I serve on the Cromwell BOF and as the town municipal hearing officer. Outside of Cromwell I am a volunteer Bradley ambassador at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, and at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in their group sales department.

I have volunteered at the Bushnell as an usher and ticket taker for over 20 years. I humbly ask for your vote on Nov. 7, 2017.

Richard Waters

Richard Waters
Democrat

1. By keeping a close eye on the budget, stop the town manager from his bad spending, like his town police car.

2. We need someone on the outside for sales. We are doing OK from within, but we cannot count on this. The town needs more business.

3. The leadership in town hall does not listen, they only want to hear positive, but the negative must be heard. The people are trying to tell you that something is wrong.

4. I'm a Democratic candidate for Cromwell Town Council. I have lived in Cromwell all my life, worked 38 years as a Teamster, and worked eight years supervising 12 convenience stores.

I volunteered 20 years with the Cromwell Auxiliary Police, the last five years as chief. I volunteered at the senior center and served one term on the Cromwell Board of Selectmen 10 years ago. I fought to get the seniors a tax abatement.

I have been a member of BPOE Elks for 45 years, a member of the Cromwell Outboard Association for 53 years, and on the Cromwell Planning and Zoning Commission for six years to present.

We the taxpayers have a right to know what is going on in the town hall, but we do not. I want to change that. I hope I can count on your vote on Nov. 7. Thank you in advance. **CL**

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CAMPAIGN 2017

Meet the candidates for Board of Education

When voters go the polls Nov. 7, they will find 10 candidates on the ballot seeking election to the Board of Education. Cromwell LIFE asked each of them to submit a photo and respond to four questions to help residents cast an informed vote.

They were allowed a maximum of 500 words and editing was limited to style, grammar, punctuation and spelling. The questions are:

1) How would you provide necessary education services while also trying to control expenses?

2) What are the most important education issues facing the town, and what would you do about them?

3) What changes in policy do you think are needed to improve the quality of a local public education?

4) Is there any other information you would like to share with voters about your personal or professional qualifications, background, community involvement?

Here are their responses.

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Mike Camilleri
Republican

1. Providing a cost-effective, high-quality educational system is one of the most important responsibilities of any community. Cromwell's successful school system is an important reason why many young families and Cromwell alumni continue to move to or stay in Cromwell.

With the continuing state budget mess, we know financial concerns will not get easier. We have adopted fiscally reasonable budgets that have been approved by our residents on the first referendum votes for many years. When we want to add a new program or position, we look to see if other outdated programs or positions can be replaced with the new ones rather than just adding to our bottom line.

Our district leaders are also very successful at finding grant funding to minimize taxpayer impact for new initiatives. I'm proud of our community's strong fiscal discipline, which includes spending and investing funds wisely to support our schools.

2. Being even more careful with taxpayers' funds while managing through the state's budget crisis is essential and remains a core issue for our schools. While minding the bottom line, however, we must make sure we prepare all of our students for the opportunities and challenges they will face after graduation.

As Board of Ed members, we must support our teachers, staff and students by driving new

programs (Freshman Academy, virtual classrooms and WIS Multi-age classrooms), adding resources to enhance existing programs (arts/music, technology and Pre-K), and supporting our diverse sports/clubs offerings.

We can only accomplish these goals with creative, enthusiastic and passionate teachers and staff. To allow us to retain our current talent while attracting new talent, I will continue to lead our efforts to improve our school culture so our team members always know they and their ideas are valued and appreciated.

3. Maximizing local control and decision making on education issues remains key for the success of our students and schools. However, unfunded state and federal mandates which often unnecessarily tie up resources and time continue to impact our ability to always make the decisions and allocate funds in the best interests of our students.

I believe it is important to move more of the control and responsibility for local education from the federal and state government to local boards of education. Parents, teachers and local leaders know what works best for educating our Cromwell students.

We will continue to collaborate with our mayor, Town Council and Board of Finance to meet the educational demands of our families and students.

4. I'm hopeful that Cromwell voters will allow me the opportunity to serve another term. As the current Board of Ed chair. I'm proud to lead a board where our members serve with civility, respect, honesty and transparency while participating in thoughtful and passionate debates about how we can make our schools even more successful.

On a personal note, I'm grateful for the love and support of my wife Terri and our daughters, Megan (CHS 11th grader) and Jessie (CMS 8th grader).

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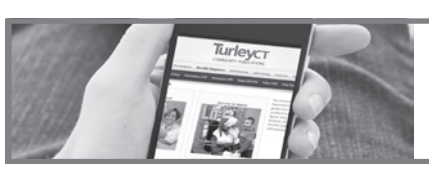

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Celina Kelleher
Republican

1. To provide necessary education services, it is imperative that we always use our resources first to hire and retain our staff. Specifically, it's important to invest in positions that directly support our students as well as our teaching staff.

Focusing on maintaining enough qualified teaching staff and support staff is fundamental to our children's learning, safety and welfare. Seeking grant opportunities when available, as well as cooperative programs, are other utilized methods of balancing needs while not adding to the budget.

I'm confident that with the continued cooperation between our school district and Town Council we have a unique working relationship that is mutually beneficial and ultimately is a huge benefit to our residents. I'm honored to be working beside these individuals and hope to continue to do so.

2. The most important education issue facing our town, in my opinion, is the uncertainty in state funding and the fallout of what it could mean if drastic reductions are made. It's my belief that our district and town's decision to reaffirm our current budget has gone a long way for our district's morale and has a positive effect on our students' achievement.

Celina Kelleher

I'm confident that our Board of Education and other town officials will do everything in our power to ensure our students have what they need to continue to receive the best education we can offer and supply them with the skills needed to be successful in life post graduation, both as a well-rounded educated adult and in college and beyond.

3. Allowing local education districts and local governments more flexibility in governing their district, as well as eliminating unfunded mandates, would greatly benefit our local public education. Our district leadership, together with our town officials, best understand the needs of our community and are best suited to make decisions for our district.

4. As a mother of three children attending ECS, WIS and CMS I directly can relate to the topics that affect our schools. I'm connected with many parents in town who feel they can express their opinions or concerns to me and know I'll do my best to find an answer or advocate for a change in policy when appropriate.

I'm constantly seeking improvement, especially in our approach to community relations. Before joining the Board of Ed, I was actively involved in many other ways. I've enjoyed helping in my children's classrooms, participating in task forces for elementary school, volunteering for the ECS/WIS parent teacher organization, including a term as its president.

Over the years, I have organized various community events such as Trick R Trunk, Family Fun Night and the Harlem Wizards game. I'm thankful to have made connections with parents, local business owners and town officials. I hope to continue to serve as a member of the Board of Education and contribute to our town's successes.

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Laurie Cantwell
Democrat

1. Having a young son who just entered Cromwell Middle school this year, his education and that of all students is of the utmost importance to me. It is very important to me that the district provides the necessary education services to all students.

While I recognize the challenge the district faces to control expenses, I believe it is critical to always put the needs of the students first. It is imperative that the board members work together as a team to find solutions to the budgetary challenges faced by districts while never sacrificing necessary education services.

Laurie Cantwell

2. I think one of the most important education services facing the town is the district's ability to attract and retain top-quality educators and administrators. There has been a great deal of both teacher and administrator turnover in recent years which makes it difficult for everyone, including students, parents, teachers and staff. It is critical to maintain consistency because constant turnover makes it difficult for everyone to establish solid working relationships.

Another issue that I feel is important is addressing the issues of the aging buildings of ECS and CMS. There has been much ongoing discussion about this in recent years. As a parent of a CMS student, I am aware of the impact that the older buildings with no air conditioning can have on the students' ability to learn and have productive school days.

With the increase in the number of warmer spring and fall days with extreme heat that we are experiencing now, the buildings with no air conditioning are presenting challenges that need to be further discussed.

3. In order to improve the quality of a local public education, I think it is the role of the members of the Board of Education to be always reviewing existing policies as issues arise to make sure the policies are still relevant and appropriate. It is imperative to do this to ensure all students get the education that meets their needs while at the same time minimizing unnecessary expenses.

If elected, I welcome the opportunity to work together with the other board members to make any necessary changes to policies and help improve our town's public education.

4. My family has resided in Cromwell since 2001. I am employed by UConn Health at the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and am passionate about advocating for a free and appropriate public education for students of all abilities.

My family belongs to St. John's Church and we feel blessed to live in such a great community. I currently serve on the town of Cromwell's Committee to Support People with Disabilities. I have also served on the board of directors for the CT Down Syndrome Congress and also was appointed by the governor's office to serve on the CT Family Support Council, where I served as co-chair.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the Cromwell Board of Education and would appreciate your vote this coming Election Day.

Jeffrey Matrullo
Republican

1. Like any business, the board needs to live within its budgeted means. The reality is that a large portion of our education budget (over 75 percent) consists of expenses that are fixed by contract. As a board, we need to continue to find ways to save on the costs that are within our control without sacrificing the quality of our students' education.

Possible ways to save include competitively bidding contracts for materials and services and achieving cost savings by sharing goods and services with the town. In addition, we need to continue the district's track record of winning grants from state and federal agencies. Those grants have been used to, among other things, fund personnel salaries.

Jeffrey Matrullo

Much credit has to be given to our excellent administration which over my four years on the board has partnered with the board to adopt responsible budgets that hold the line on costs while maintaining a high-quality level of education, both academic and extracurricular.

2. The state budget is the most important issue facing the town. The state's dire financial situation continues to plague local boards of education and Cromwell is not immune to its effects.

As of this submission, the state still has not adopted a budget and any budget that is adopted will likely cut a portion of the town's Education Cost Sharing funding. We face a new reality, one in which we cannot assume guaranteed funding from Hartford.

We have to accept that the town does not have unlimited resources to fund every single desired initiative, but all is not lost. Over the past four years, in cooperation with our administration, the board has adopted financially responsible budgets with minimal increases while continuing to improve the educational experience of our students.

We need to continue scrutinizing our budgets while ensuring our students have the resources needed to succeed.

3. We live in an ever-changing and complex world and we need to adapt our teaching styles to that reality. "We have always done it that way" can never justify our teaching methods.

Instead, the board must encourage our administration and teachers and give them the latitude to institute innovative academic programs that will challenge our students. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are in high demand in today's society and they must be a focus of our curriculum.

4. I am currently serving my first term as a member of the Board of Education. It has been an honor to serve the town of Cromwell and I would welcome the opportunity to serve another term. My wife Danielle and I are proud to call Cromwell home and to raise our two children, Andrew, 5, and newborn Matthew, here.

Jordan Lamberson
Democrat

1. We need to continue to intelligently invest in our district while managing all aspects of the budget given the uncertain future of state funding. My focus would be on three things: evaluating everything we do based on student outcomes, looking for all types of available funding (grants, philanthropy, etc.), and continue to leverage technology across the district.

It's critical that we tightly manage the budget as we have in past years and also continue to attract and retain high-caliber teachers that make our district successful.

2. We have several issues facing us but I would prioritize the following: the aforementioned uncertainty in state funding, the potential replacement/refurbishment of ECS and CMS, and shifting our curriculum to teach more problem solving and critical thinking.

State education funding will continue to be an issue for Cromwell and other municipalities until a state budget solution is achieved. We need to con-

tinue our fiscal responsibility while working with state representatives to ease the unfunded state mandates and highlight the importance of education cost sharing.

Replacing ECS and refurbishing CMS as new are both critical to maintaining high standards for our students. We have an initial plan in place so that we can act as our current bonding is retired. We will continue to work with the Town Council and Board of Finance to determine the best detailed plan and timing.

Evolving our curriculum to promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills is important for two reasons. State testing has evolved to measure these skills more than rote memorization. But more importantly, these are the skills that our children need to learn and what employers are looking for as they hire young talent.

3. As previously mentioned, one of the biggest policy challenges we face is the unfunded mandates put upon the district by the state. Simply put, they are requiring us to do more and giving us less.

This area is ripe for reform at the state level. Not all of the state policies are without merit but they tend to tie our hands or restrict us in certain areas. We need more flexibility and ownership at the local level.

4. I've lived in Cromwell since 2007 and I've served on the Board of Education since May of 2016 when I was asked to take over for a colleague who had to step down. Jen and I decided to move here because of the great school system and we couldn't be happier with the experience our children have had so far.

I've worked in the learning and education field for 17 years. I have a master of arts in adult learning and I'm currently a learning designer at McKinsey & Co. There are a lot of similarities in what I do at my firm and how we're evolving learning in Cromwell.

I hope to continue to serve the people of Cromwell on the Board of Education and continue the great work we've been doing on placing students first.

Lindsey Merli
Republican

1. Providing quality educational service and

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opportunity to our Cromwell students while maintaining fiscal responsibility is challenging, but necessary. Primarily, this requires crafting a budget that ensures our resources are always being put to their best use and meeting the vision we create for our students and schools.

This includes utilizing each teacher's unique talents and promoting collaboration among faculty members. This collaboration will lead to the formation of innovative ideas and methods to increase the enrichment of our students while requiring no additional cost or resources.

Lindsey Merli

In addition, promoting community involvement through volunteering and fund raising is also important. This will allow us to offer additional educational opportunities for our students while maintaining strict adherence to our budget. Furthermore, the community's involvement will also allow the students to feel the support of the town and continue to build on the current sense of camaraderie in our schools.

2. Effectively communicating public school current issues to the community and informing the parents and members of the town how their voice can be heard should be made a top priority. Parental involvement in their children's education should be encouraged.

This is crucial in child development and will allow for the parents and community to maintain confidence and pride in the Cromwell public school system.

Furthermore, keeping an open dialogue between the schools and community will allow our town residents greater opportunity to share their ideas and provide input. As a result, this will increase modernization and provide exciting new educational opportunities for our students.

3. A policy that would improve the quality of public education and ensures that every child is reaching their potential includes a three-step system. The first step is the creation of a well-rounded, comprehensive student assessment, not limited to just testing. This assessment should be utilized continuously throughout the year to identify areas lacking in student comprehension and to identify areas of excellence.

The second step in the policy includes the creation of a thorough plan for each student. This plan should include obtainable but challenging goals with progressive steps to allow students to reach them. Whether the student is working to meet expectations or is exceptional, every child should be challenged consistently to ensure continued growth and enrichment.

The last step of this policy includes effectively communicating the student's assessment and the teacher's plan to the parents. This will bring consistent parental awareness of their child's performance, increase continuity between school and home, and allow the parents to positively reinforce school concepts.

4. As a parent and proud member of the Cromwell community, I want to work together with others on the Board of Education to offer the support and educational opportunities our students deserve. I plan on accomplishing this by focusing on transparency, effective communications, and by providing an open dialogue with in the community and the school system.

Stephen Palmer
Democrat

1. Like every household, we need to operate under a balanced and responsible budget. Our education budget says a lot about what we value and what we want to achieve for our kids.

After all, how and what we spend our tax dollars on reflects those values and who we are. In my view, we need to set short and long-term priorities as well as make smart investments in our schools.

2. In my view, we need to have a serious discussion about rebuilding our elementary and middle schools. The investments we've made in our intermediate and high schools have done wonders to create a positive and healthy learning environment for our children.

If we are to compete with other towns (e.g. Glastonbury, Old Lyme, etc.), then we need to invest in our school's infrastructure. Our current Band-Aid approach to infrastructure only kicks the can down the road at the expense of our kids' education.

Stephen Palmer

Likewise, we need to address class size. While in some grades class sizes remain good, we need to ensure that students in all grades receive the individual attention that they may need.

Of course, we cannot fully address class size unless we evaluate whether we have a sufficient number of classroom teachers and paraprofessionals to meet the needs of our growing student population.

3. The Board of Education needs a new direction. The board needs to be more transparent and open about itself and the matters under consideration. For example, budget documents should not be buried on the web, but rather should be on the board's homepage.

In developing said budget, the board needs to have more input from the community and ought to hold a series of public forums at times and days convenient to the public. Dialogue, transparency and disclosure can greatly improve the board's accountability to voters and taxpayers, as well as parents and students.

In my view, the largest portion of our town's budget ought to have the greatest amount of input possible. If you don't cast the net wide enough, you won't be able to catch enough fish.

4. For the last 12 years I have worked for the state of Connecticut, having interacted and worked with staff and officials at every level of government. I am also a proud member of the ECS/WIS PTO.

As a parent to a five-year old, who just started kindergarten at ECS, and a toddler who will be entering the public school system in a few years, I want to contribute to their success. I am committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive. On Nov. 7, I ask for your vote. Thank you.

Paul Sousa
Democrat

1. Board of Education members need to make tough decisions when developing the school budget. You make these decision by determining the financial impact on the budget and the benefit to improving educational services.

If the educational services are new programs, you try to find alternate means to pay for the new programs, such as grants. A decision can impact staff, students, parents and the community and we try to evaluate these decisions with all of these parties in mind.

2. We are too concerned about standardized tests and how we compare with our surrounding towns. We need to get away from this mentality. Our students of today are not just competing with the students next door, they are competing with the students all over the world.

I would like to see Cromwell educate our children better with a more global mindset. Learning fundamentals is very important to have a solid foundation. But I would like to see the school

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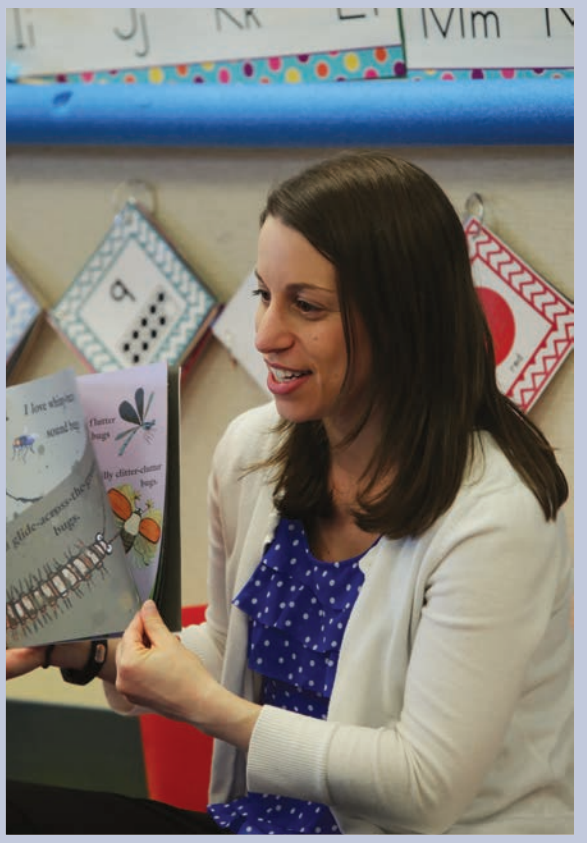
Damon Gray '16
Communication Major
Production Assistant, ESPN

Damon has worked on ESPN programs ranging from Sports Center to Sports Science to ESPN FC. "Eastern gave me hands-on experience in video editing and live sports broadcasts. With the help of the staff and my fellow students, the Eastern TV sports crew was the perfect starting point for a career at ESPN."

Molly Rathbun '12
Physical Education/Psychology
Four-time Division III All-American

Molly is the head softball coach and sports psychology coordinator at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. "Being a student-athlete taught me about commitment and camaraderie, and showed me the importance of staying in the moment and focusing on the little things."



Jennifer Wolff '12
Early Childhood Education
Teacher, Cook Hill Elementary School
Wethersfield, CT

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system develop practices that can broaden our children's knowledge beyond what the standardized tests are requiring to teach.

3. Over the past few years the federal and state governments keep adding unfunded mandates, forcing requirements down to the local communities. While the federal and state legislatures may have good intentions, these mandates may not be best for every school district.

Paul Sousa

The legislature is too far removed from the school systems themselves to make these decisions. These decisions need to be made at the local level where they can get input from faculty, staff, students and parents.

4. I've lived in Cromwell since 1993. I am married with three children. All three of my children attended the Cromwell school system. I have coached various local youth sports clubs.

I am a member of the Knights of Columbus and St. John's Church. I have been on the Board of Education for 12 years, I have served on two building committees that installed new roofs, solar panels and various improvements to the Edna C. Stevens School and Cromwell Middle School.

I have been the Board of Education liaison to the Town Council for the last four years. I chair the Board of Education Facilities and Technology Committee. Member of the Board of Education's Student Achievement Committee.

Marilyn Teitelbaum
Democrat

1. Don't waste money. Establish priorities. Allocate the budget according to the priorities. Stick to the budget. Don't rob Peter to pay Paul.

2. Teaching students a love of lifelong learning through a broad range of academics, problem solving and critical thinking, the arts, physical activity, technological competence, communication skills, appropriate behavior and interpersonal skills, and good citizenship are important education issues for any town.

School security, bullying, diversity, optimal

Marilyn Teitelbaum

facilities, staffing and resources are also crucial. The ever growing needs of special education and challenged students must be considered. All levels of the school community will be involved in addressing these educational issues for content and delivery.

3. Policy changes will be determined through periodic federal and state mandates, the ever-changing educational landscape, student conduct, ongoing needs assessments of students, teachers and administrators consistent with objectives.

For example, the rampant, unharnessed student use of cell phones and iPods for social, personal and entertainment devices during class without permission, and often unobserved, even in the hallways with permission, can be problematic.

Studies reveal that frequent, arbitrary, social use of cell phones/iPods in a classroom negatively impacts conceptualization and retention. Possession and non educational use of cell phones/iPods in the classroom may need policy changes. The process will include dialogue between the board and the school community.

4. As a resident of Cromwell for 25 years, I've watched the town grow from a small farming town to a desirable suburb with increased single-family housing, a new intermediate school, a renovated larger high school with additional courses and teachers, additional AP courses, revamped curriculum and changes in scheduling.

Our school system can rival any system in the state. I have served as a substitute teacher at Cromwell High School, as well as Wethersfield, Glastonbury and Berlin high schools, for 17 years. I have observed some of the finest teachers in our school system.

Many of our students morph into scholars and talented professionals after graduation. I now want to serve on the Board of Ed using my intimate knowledge of our system's strengths and areas of improvement.

My education includes a B.A. in English secondary education, cum laude, University of Connecticut and MS in counseling with additional course work in marriage and family counseling from SCSU. I have 10 years experience in university/community college continuing education program planning, coordination and implementation, marketing and public relations, corporate and adult training needs assessments, customized training, curriculum and budget development, grant writing including federal, state and private funding.

Additionally, I worked as a grant manager conducting research, program planning, development and evaluation while managing the funding process collaboratively with a volunteer grassroots committee in a 38-town region for elderly services. I understand how to work cooperatively with others while providing leadership.

Shirley Banic
Democrat

1. The use of resources, volunteers with expertise in the areas needed, and volunteers with knowledge of grant writing and/or ability to search for appropriate grants.

Shirley Banic

2. Education issues facing the town, insuring each child coming into or preparing the student to exit the system, has had the best, quality education provided to them. Insure each entering or leaving has had the opportunity for the best, quality education offered.

3. I believe Cromwell offers quality education. Before I offer any suggestions, comments, I would review any changes in place because I have had previous experience on the BOE. I would like to see he most recent changes.

4. I am a strong advocate for education. I am a graduate from University of Hartford with a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in management from RPI.

I have served as a previous member of the BOE and a previous member of the council. I am a member of the Democratic Town Committee and the Charter Revision Commission.

I serve on the board of directors on John Paul II Regional School. My husband and I have been residents of Cromwell for over 40 years. **CL**

Town charter changes are also on the ballot

When voters go to the polls Nov. 7 they will be electing people to several offices but there is also a referendum question about making several changes to the town charter as proposed by the Charter Revision Commission and approved for a vote by the Town Council.

Here is a brief overview of the changes. A "yes" vote approves all of the following changes and a "no" vote denies them.

Section 2.07 clarifies the deadlines and procedures for filling vacancies on the Town Council.

Section 2.09 adopts the state Municipal Auditing Act for purposes of independent auditing of the town's finances and permits the Board of Finance to choose an independent audit firm.

Section 2.10(c) changes the necessary quorum for a Town Council meeting from five members to four.

Section 2.11 requires the affirmative vote of five members of the Town Council to adopt, amend or repeal an ordinance.

Section 3.01(b) creates a residency requirement for the town manager position that can only be waived by a two-thirds vote of the entire Town Council.

Section 3.04(7) sets a timeframe for the town manager to complete an annual town report.

Article IV includes a number of technical changes to the title and job descriptions of administrative offices of the town to comport with state law or to otherwise make the descriptions and terms consistent with current town offices.

Section 4.08 changes the office of the town tax collector from an elected position to an appointed one commencing Jan. 1, 2018, with the individual who was elected to the position Nov. 7, 2017, being appointed to the position as of Jan. 1, 2018.

Section 4.09 changes the office of the town clerk from an elected position to an appointed one commencing Jan. 1, 2018, with the individual who was elected to the position Nov. 7, 2017, being appointed to the position as of Jan. 1, 2018.

Section 4.14 creates the office of the building official as a position to be included in the charter; the position currently exists in town government, but is not referenced in the charter.

Section 4.18 creates the office of the town planner as a position to be included in the charter; the position currently exists in town government, but is not referenced in the charter.

Section 4.21 adds the Recreation and Youth Services Commission to the list of appointed boards and commissions and allows for the function and composition of each board and commission to be determined by ordinance.

Article VI clarifies that the powers of initiative and overrule relate to the adoption and repeal of ordinances only.

Article VII governing town employees is revised to eliminate a number of obsolete provisions regarding merit system and classified service but retains the obligation of the town manager to create appropriate personnel rules for recommendation to, and adoption by, the Town Council.

Section 8.03 removes the requirement of a special town meeting to review and approve the town's special revenue fund budgets.

Section 8.05 confirms the long-established practice that the bonded debt, general government and Board of Education budgets will be voted on as three separate questions at the Annual Budget Referendum.

Section 8.09 removes the requirement of a special town meeting to approve supplemental and emergency appropriations.

Section 10.02 sets an effective date for the amended charter as Jan. 1, 2018.

Article XI Transition removes obsolete references to the 2011 transition to a Town Council form of governance and the need for temporary ordinances to affect that change. **CL**

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Meet the candidates for Board of Finance

When voters go the polls Nov. 7, they will find four candidates on the ballot seeking election to the Board of Finance. Cromwell LIFE asked each of them to submit a photo and respond to four questions to help residents cast an informed vote.

They were allowed a maximum of 500 words and editing was limited to style, grammar, punctuation and spelling. The questions are:

1) How would you make sure town government and the school district have sufficient funding while also controlling expenses and property taxes?

2) What are the most important financial issues facing the town, and what would you do about them?

3) What changes, if any, would you like to make if you are elected to the Board of Finance?

4) Is there any other information you would like to share with voters about your personal or professional qualifications, background, community involvement?

Here are their responses.

Amanda Drew
Republican

1. I believe this is a top priority of every BOF member and for the past six years I have served with this in mind. I have skin in this game since I have two school-aged children. I want them to get the best of everything, but understand that every town must live within their means.

Amana Drew

Education and infrastructure are my priorities and I don't believe we should freeze the budget as some suggest. Our budget is already lean but we need to continue to improve our infrastructure and not take on the philosophy of kicking the can as the state has done.

We have a duty to continue to offer the best education because that will make our residents want to stay, make us attractive to others (including businesses) which increases our tax base, which can lower the tax burden on individual taxpayers.

Our state is failing us and putting the pressure on towns unfairly. If the bottom drops, there will be no easy answers, but we cannot fail to serve our most vulnerable. I believe we should continue asking the tough questions of the BOE and make them explain how a project or funding will help not only the children, but the community as a whole.

I have never been described as shy and am not afraid to ask the questions.

2. State of Connecticut. Is that too blunt? Our state government is in chaos and has made poor decisions. This session should have focused on the budget instead of choosing our official state dinosaur. In the last six years Cromwell has done an excellent job of maintaining services and updating infrastructure, all while limiting spending, but we might be left with cleaning up the bad habits of others.

Our bond rating is at a steady AAA and the state's is downgrading, which is telling. We are losing funding from the state because we have done exactly what every town should do - our jobs. We are being punished for sound budget management.

3. I would like to get more people out to vote for the budget than the usual 300. I would like more readable signs put out in key areas to announce the referendum.

Since coming onto this board, I have always strived to make our decisions non-political. Our budget/votes should not be decided along partisan lines. We make decisions for all, not just for some. I am proud to be a part of this board and hope to continue.

Steve Wygonowski

4. I have lived in Cromwell for over 10 years and am married to my fire-fighting husband, Bill, and am a mom to two beautiful girls Kellie, 9 and Abigail, 3.

I have always believed in service to the community and hope to pass that down to my kids. I'm a member of the Inland Wetlands Committee, Conservation Committee and chair the Cromwell Dog Park. I am also a member of the Cromwell Fire Department and Hilltop Covenant Church.

Steve Wygonowski
Republican

1. There are some excellent people in our town government and on our elected councils and boards that have done a great job of managing our town finances while also growing and improving

the town from a resident and business perspective. As a student of finance, and reviewing the budget process, there is a good solid base to build off in terms of people and process.

Over the past few years, the town has done well by controlling spending, allocating funding where the best value can be found and growing the town grand list to enable limited tax increases.

We need to support state mandates for education increases and look deeply at where any efficiency may allow us to do more for the same money. Quality education and creating inspired learners is perhaps the most important goal, as the competitive world demands that.

2. Careful planning to date by town officials and the Board of Finance have put the town in a good position, even with the uncertainty and issues facing the state and certain municipalities. That said, there are very likely to be some difficult decisions that will be required if the state cannot properly resolve the budget impasse.

There will be major demands for large capital spending in the coming years for a variety of projects and there is a need to think strategically and without emotion about deciding where and what to fund. In order to keep Cromwell affordable for all people, we need to be smart about targeting the right areas to grow spending and identify opportunities to be more efficient.

3. The Board of Finance has been on a good track

Ed Maley Jr.

the past few years and I would work hard to continue that record of success. My primary focus would be to build partnerships with all members of the board and with our Town Council and other key stakeholders.

My desire would be to gain access and work more directly with town departments and other leaders in town to better understand their point of view and to offer my experience for their benefit. I do believe we need to provide transparency and proper governance for all revenue collection in town, including taxes collected by all entities.

4. I am in a technology leadership position for a large Hartford area insurance company. My work routinely involves large project and organizational planning, budgeting and execution processes. These have significant financial implications that require extensive knowledge and accountable for safeguarding the assets that we are entrusted with.

On an ongoing basis, we are required to assess our plans and to seek the most cost-effective solutions while delivering a superior customer experience. One of my side passions has been providing leadership to the Cromwell Boy Scout program for the past 15 years and working to keep the program strong and financially sound.

I also serve as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals and that has provided a valuable set of lessons related to being on town boards.

Ed Maley Jr.
Democrat

1. Striking that balance is the essence of the function of the Board of Finance. The board represents the taxpayers in the budgeting process.

While it is important to ensure the people of Cromwell receive the best possible services from

Continued on page 30

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November calendar

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

4 **Nutmeg Fair & Tag Sale,** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., First Congregational Church, 355 Main St., fcccromwell.org

6 **Kid's Self-Defense Course,** 6:30 p.m., Edna C. Stevens School gymnasium, 860-632-3467 or cromwellrec.com, also Nov. 13

7 **Let's Go Art,** 3:30 p.m., for grades K-2, Edna C. Stevens School, 860-632-3467 or cromwellrec.com, also Nov. 14, 21 and 28

Vinyasa Flow Yoga, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall arch room, 860-632-3467 or cromwellrec.com

8 **Let's Go Art,** 3:30 p.m., for grades 3-5, Woodside Intermediate School, 860-632-3467 or cromwellrec.com, also Nov. 14, 21 and 28

Mad Science, 3:30 p.m., for grades 1-2, Edna C. Stevens School, 860-632-3467 or cromwellrec.com, also Nov. 15, 22 and 29

9 **Music & Movement with Jess,** 1 p.m., Town Hall gymnasium, for ages 2-5, also Nov. 16 and 23, 860-632-3467 or cromwellrec.com

Mad Science, 3:30 p.m., for grades 3-5, Woodside Intermediate School, 860-632-3467 or cromwellrec.com, also Nov. 16 and 23

11 **Annual Holiday Bazaar,** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Covenant Village of Cromwell, 52 Missionary Road

13 **Fall Fun Crafts with Jess,** 10:15 a.m., Town Hall activity room, for grades 2-5, 860-632-3467 or cromwellrec.com, also Nov. 20 and 27

Women's Self-Defense Course, 7:30 p.m., Edna C. Stevens School gymnasium, $25 fee, 860-632-3467 or cromwellrec.com

22 **Middlesex County Blue Star Mothers Connecticut Chapter 3,** 7 p.m., Town Hall, 41 West St., middlesexcountybluestarmothers.org

27 **Jonathan Tinkham Program,** 7 p.m., Stevens-Frisbie House, 395 Main St., 860-635-0501 or cromwellhistory.org

Is your club, community organization, school or house of worship holding an event open to the general public? If so, please send us the details for inclusion in our calendar. Email your events to Mark Jahne at mjahne@turleyct.com or mail them to Turley CT Community Publications, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.

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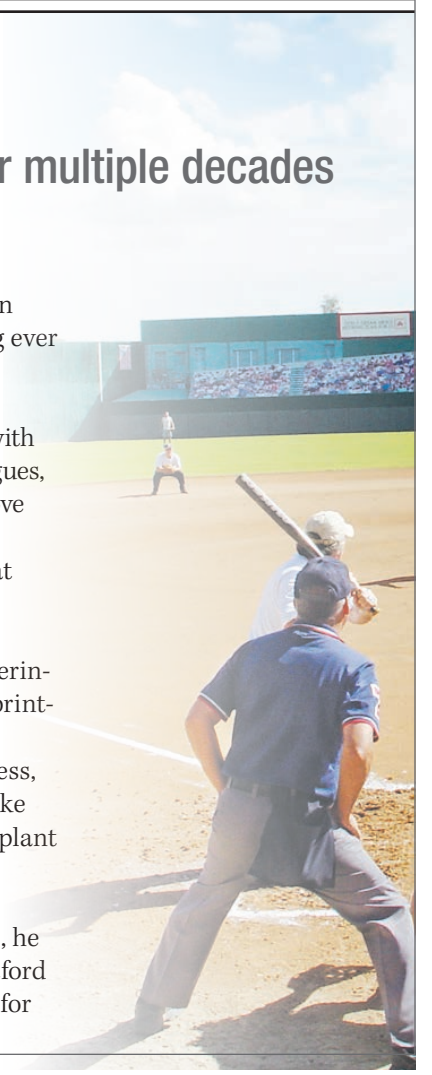
Making the call

Frank Begen umpires games for multiple decades

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer



Frank Begen sat back in a tall, cushioned chair in his home and smiled. Behind him on a long shelf by the staircase was row after row of framed pictures with smiling family and friends peering out.

On the arm of the chair, sitting right beside Begen's hand, was a plain black baseball cap, an integral part of the uniform he wears as an umpire. Being an umpire is more than a hobby for him, it is a passion.

"I just love doing it," the Rocky Hill resident said. "I would do it for free."

Growing up in Queens, N.Y., the Rocky Hill resident recalled spending childhood days watching the former New York Giants play the Brooklyn Dodgers.

"I grew up three quarters of a mile from Shea Stadium," he said. "I went back and the neighborhood has changed so much. Where all the ball parks are now, when I was a kid it was a great big swamp."

Commuting to high school in Brooklyn, Begen played for the school's track team, running hurdles and relays as well as throwing the javelin.

"I've always been good on my feet," he said with a small laugh.

In his later teen years he began playing baseball and after spending years in the U.S. Navy he switched to playing recreational softball. Then living on Long Island, Begen met and married his late wife Gloria and the two had six children. Since then he has also become a grandfather of 14 and great-grandfather of three.

It was when his oldest son Richard began playing Little League in the late 1950s that Begen's love of the game brought him from being on the field to behind home plate.

"I started umping when he was in Little League and I've just been going ever since," he said.

After spending three years as an umpire on Long Island, also working with high school and adult recreational leagues, Begen was offered a job that would move him to New Haven.

"I didn't move the whole family at first, so it was just me," he said. "So I started to do softball."

By day, he worked as a plant superintendent for a company that created printing plates for electrotype printers.

"Back when I got into that business, we used vinyl," he said. "I used to make plates for Life Magazine. They had a plant down in Old Saybrook and we would make the replacement plates."

Once established in Connecticut, he moved with his entire family to Stratford in 1964. There he became an umpire for

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college games in addition to high school and adult games.

"I remember there was a ball player named Ron Darling who played for Yale and I was umping their games," Begen recalled. "Who would have known that he would become a major league player."

Though his passion lay in officiating games, Begen soon found that he needed to make a change in his work/life balance and devote more time to his profession. He decided he had to stop umpiring college games at the time.

As the world started to change, however, so did his work with electrotype printing.

"Offset printing started and offset knocked electrotype right out the window," he said. "Offset is an entirely different method and we went out of business after that."

Begen was out of work for six months with six children still living at home.

"I started going to employment agencies, but for a lot of jobs I was actually too qualified," he recalled.

Eventually, he was able to find a job in an entirely new field working for Aetna in its Bridgeport office. After two and a half years in the position, he was transferred to the main office in Hartford and moved his family to Rocky Hill nearly 45 years ago.

It was at that point that he knew he would be able to further integrate himself into his passion, but once he arrived in town he found that his options were more limited than he expected.

"I moved up here and there was no softball board," he said.

With the help of some friends, Begen helped to start a softball league board here and became involved with the ASA Umpires, now part of USA Softball.

Though no longer part of that original board, he has continued to take on leadership roles in the local softball community. In his current position he assigns umpires to high school, college and adult league games, although school games seem to be the most prominent.

"The guys for some reason are not playing softball like they used to," he said. "The Rocky Hill league, which I did for 40 years, they just folded. They joined with Wethersfield, which is the biggest league around now."

The games for which Begen assigns umpires also range in location, spanning from Cromwell up through the Farmington Valley. Still active as an umpire, he generally gives all assignments out to the others in the league before taking jobs

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for himself.

"I keep myself for last-minute cancellations," he said. "This past season I did probably 15 girls high school games."

Regardless of how long he has been an umpire, Begen has no plans to give the hobby up completely.

"I do it because I enjoy the game," he said. "You know when you do a good game and you don't need somebody telling you, but it's nice when the losing team says 'good game, ump.'"

When it comes to discussing the art of umpiring a game, he can talk for hours. He uses that knowledge and passion to teach clinics for other umpires and those aspiring to the position.

"You've got to stay on top of the rules," he said. "I tell them, when you read the book and know what the rule is, try to picture the play, so when it happens in front of you, you can make the call right away."

Begen is also adamant that when it comes to being an umpire, knowing where to stand is one of the most important skills.

"Position is probably the most critical thing," he said. "You've got to be at the right angle to make the right call."

It's in these scenarios that his history competing in track helps him.

"I don't move as fast anymore, but I know where to be to make the right call," he said. "A lot of guys, they'll stay on the sides and then they're not in the position to make the right call. Judgement is something you can't teach anybody."

When it comes to watching major league games, he admitted that he doesn't like the new ability to re-watch and slow down plays.

"It's part of the game," he said. "You can only play what you see, but you get sight of the guys who don't have good judgement."

Looking forward, he hopes to see more people, especially women, train to become umpires. He has already started to see a new generation come about with his son Bob now umpiring slow-pitch games in the area.

"It's just something I want to see continue and grow," he said. **RHL**

Photos courtesy of Stephanie Begen

Frank Begen, left, has been working as an umpire since his oldest son joined Little League in the late 1950s. This summer at the All-Star Men's Softball game at Maxwell Park, Begen co-umpired a game with his son, Bob Begen of Cromwell.

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Making every day sweeter

Anthy Manolakis creates extravagant treats

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

Photos by Lisa Brisson

Anthy Manolakis got an early start in the food business. When she was 13, her father Steve bought a pizza place called Main Street Pizza in East Hampton, where she grew up.

"Right after school I'd walk down to the restaurant. I'd sit at a corner table for about an hour and do my homework. That was the priority. Then I'd help with the serving, the cooking, the prep. We're already a big, close family and it really brought us together," Manolakis said.

"Beforehand, I was really, really shy. It helped me expand to be more sociable and take an interest in people. I really enjoyed that, just having these little chats with them. I really loved being around people."

While she thought she might go into the restaurant business, she discovered another love.

"I found out I really enjoyed making sweets. Sugar and chocolate makes everybody happy," she said.

She credits her parents for teaching her and her brothers to cook and encouraging them to "try new things from the time we were very young. I have a very big family and everyone loves to cook and create new dishes," she said.

"There was always some type of family gathering or celebration going on. We would make a variety of dishes including desserts, but when it came to cakes, my mom would always pick something up from the bakery."

When her mother became ill and could no longer drive, she would send Manolakis to the bakery for her.

"When I first starting going into the bakery, I was amazed of all the sweets in the display, just staring at them all, then I saw some of the cakes displayed, not the typical round cakes, the custom theme cakes. I was amazed you can pretty much create anything on them. My curiosity to see more and learn just grew from there," she said.

"I would explore everything I could on cakes and decorating."

She began making cakes and desserts as a hobby, often trying out her recipes on her family.

"I did a lot of experimenting at home. I had my family try it continuously. They were like guinea pigs," she said.

Sometimes things worked well, and sometimes, she knew it was back to the kitchen.

"Just seeing their expressions, I'd think, 'no, no, no, I have to work on this one,'" she said with a laugh.

She especially enjoyed surprising loved ones with themed cakes such as fishing, boating, sports and the like.

"Sugar and chocolate makes everybody happy."

– Anthy Manolakis

"I would take it to the extreme that I possibly could. Seeing everyone with huge smiles and beyond happy when they saw the cakes [or] sweets, I knew I found my calling. Everyone started telling me to go into business," Manolakis said.

In 2005 she opened SweetArt Cakes. She watched videos and became an avid viewer of the Food Network, inspired by shows such as "Cake Boss." While many of her recipes have evolved over time, some are her mother's.

"A couple of her recipes will not change; they are perfection," she said.

After her mom passed away in 2011, she renamed her business the following year in her honor as "Ellie's Sweet Treats."

"My mom is my biggest inspiration, my best-est friend and my idol always. It was devastating. She was my everything. She was the first one I'd call with good news, she was the first one I'd call with bad news," Manolakis said.

She continues to expand her Ellie's Sweet Treats product line, offering custom-made cakes, decorative cupcakes, cake pops, alcohol-infused cake pops, gourmet caramel apples, chocolate covered and caramel pretzels, mini cakes, brownie pizzas, cupcakes in a jar, chocolate-covered marshmallows, ice cream cone pops and other specialty desserts.

She makes wedding favors and custom designed gift baskets that she both delivers locally and ships nationally. While she does sell at a few shops, such as Finders Keepers in Glastonbury, most of her work is made to order.

"I keep the ingredients as natural as possible. My favorite is using organic coconut oil. My cakes never go into the freezer, they're made fresh to order," she said.

She's able to accommodate many special requests, for example, creating a lower-fat product using applesauce, or making egg-free items or even a vegan wedding cake.

"Everything is made from the heart always with a personal touch. Anthy always adds a little something special that touches your heart, for example, flowers or a few extra treats you weren't expecting," Gloria Therrien of Windsor said.

Therrien has ordered cakes for herself and relatives, as well as Christmas baskets with treats such as cake pops, brownie and chocolate chip cookie pizzas, cupcakes, chocolate-dipped pretzels and chocolate-covered Twinkies.

"I love everything," she said, adding her favorite is red velvet.

"Anthy has a passion passed on from her mother. I believe her mom is watching from heaven and is so proud of the talent and professionalism that Anthy has made her mom's legacy with love."

Laurie Czarzasty of Watertown was recently involved with planning two weddings. Her son got married on Sept. 30 and her daughter will be married on Jan. 20, 2018.

"Anthy made me feel comfortable from the very first conversation, like my order was top priority. She was so very down to earth; I felt comfortable instantly, as if I had known her for 20 years," she said.

"My first order with her was for my future daughter-in-law's bridal shower, an anchor cake, since it was a nautical wedding. It was a three-tier, very intricate designer cake," Czarzasty added.

"Then I placed an order for 23 small chocolate anchors as favors for my son's rehearsal dinner. ... she painted the chocolates by hand, nautical blue, and even supplied the clear bags and decorated it with white ribbon."

Czarzasty also ordered 200 designer cupcakes for her daughter's Jack and Jill party and plans to have Manolakis make wedding favors for the January wedding as well as the rehearsal dinner dessert.

"Basically, I cannot rave enough about this woman. She goes up and

beyond and makes you feel like you are her only customer," she said. "She is now considered not only my go-to bakery lady and pastry chef for items, but I consider her a very dear friend."

Manolakis is surprised with how quickly the business has grown.

"It just grew so rapidly," she said. "Normally I tell people to give me advanced notice for orders. But if people call me in panic mode, I try to accommodate them," she said.

"Many, many nights I'm up to 2, 3, 4 o'clock in the morning trying to get things done for them. As long as I have coffee in the house, I am good."

In addition to running her own business, she also sometimes helps out her brother John at his restaurant Gio's Brick Oven Pizzeria in East Granby, where she also sells her treats. Her brother Rick also owns a restaurant in East Granby called Center Grill.

"I love to work. I'm first generation. My parents came from Greece. You just work really hard for what you want; things aren't just given to you. They taught that to us. I love to work, I love to keep busy. They taught me that from when I was very young," she said.

"If I have nothing going on, I'm so bored. I need to do something. If I don't have something going on, I start experimenting. Baking can be from early in the morning until late at night," Manolakis added.

She takes satisfaction when she sees people sharing a photo on Facebook of one of her creations or when she receives a note thanking her for her sweets or just knowing she made someone's day brighter.

"I love things that sparkle, doing something a little bit different and seeing people's expression, seeing them smile. That gives me that motivation I need. Whenever I'm delivering anything, I'm so nervous at first. I usually deliver myself so I can see that they're happy with it. That's a wonderful feeling," she said.

"For me, it's all about the people. Everything I'm doing is to make others happy. That's my inspiration. Life is too short; make every day sweeter." **CL**

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During the unsuccessful bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British warships (Sept. 13-14,1814), Francis Scott Key was inspired by the sight of the **American Flag** still flying. He wrote the words that were later set to music to become our National Anthem: "O say does that **star-spangled banner still wave**, over the land of the free, and the home of the brave."

Our flag and National Anthem represent our **Declaration of Independence** and our **Constitution. Failure to honor** and **to understand** this **relationship makes for** and **encourages** the present movement **towards socialism**, etc. When people seek to work out their problems or grievances **by attacking the structure of the ship they are on** out in the ocean, **such is destructive folly**. Doing so **ignorantly** or **willfully** makes for **personal and public loss**.

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…ONE NATION, UNDER GOD… our right to know that LIFE and LIBERTY are GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS, not the GRANT of GOVERNMENT. Our Constitution gives us a government limited to the delegated authority that "WE THE PEOPLE" allotted to each branch of civil government.

…WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL… LIBERTY is the love of individual independence, being free from tyrannical rule and control– a LIBERTY that does not degenerate into license. The Liberty Bell and the Statue of Liberty are fitting symbols. JUSTICE is "the virtue which consists in GIVING TO EVERYONE WHAT IS HIS DUE."Thus justice calls for law and equity, right rules and fair play for all. This explains the once prevailing concept in America– PUNISHMENT TO FIT THE CRIME.

To lose the meaning of OUR FLAG is to encourage the loss of our Republican form of government and our God-given, responsible pursuit of LIFE and LIBERTY.

"**REMEMBER**, O LORD, Thy tender mercies and Thy loving kindnesses; for they have been ever of old. **REMEMBER** not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to Thy mercy **REMEMBER** Thou me for Thy goodness' sake, O LORD." (Psalm 25:6-7). "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear Him. For he knoweth our frame; **HE REMEMBERETH** that we are dust" (Psalm 103:13,14). "**REMEMBER ME**, O LORD, with the favour that Thou bearest unto they people. O visit me with Thy salvation" (Psalm 106:4).

May you be BOTHERED to the point of being BLESSED. May our GRAND OLD FLAG remind us of our great American HERITAGE, "one nation **under God**" without Whose grace we cannot survive the erosion and corrosion of our day. May you look to the GOD OF TRUTH in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ (who said, "I amTHE TRUTH"– John 14:6), so that you might REST in the TRUTH of God'sWord ("the TRUTH shall make you free"– John 8:32) and the TRUTH of God's Son ("the SON shall make you free"–John 8:36). To RECEIVE HIM is to receive the **LIFE** and **LIBERTY** He alone can give (John 1:12).

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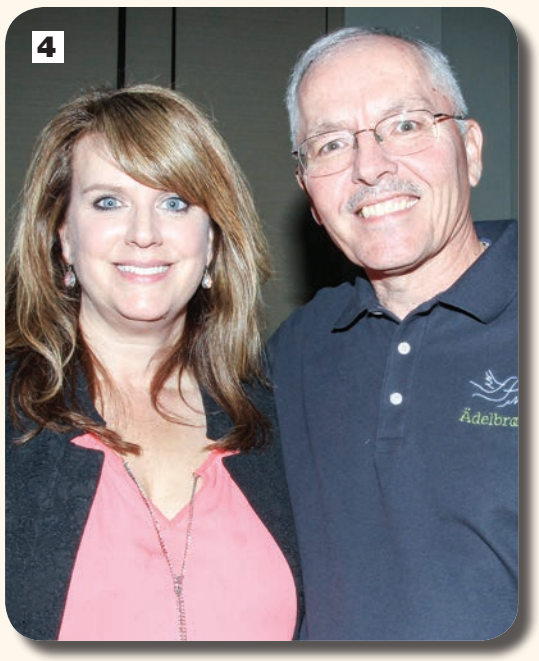
Slice of LIFE

photos by Lisa Brisson

The Radisson Hotel was the site for the 14th annual wine tasting to benefit Ädelbrook Behavioral & Developmental Services. The Oct. 13 event, "Cheers for Ädelbrook," featured wines and spirits from more than 15 distributors arranged by Liquor World of Cromwell, food, auctions, door prizes and music by Will Evans.



14th Annual Wine Tasting

1. American Eagle Financial Credit Union, one of the event sponsors, had plenty of volunteers out in force including Teresa Fotta and Pamela Guijarro. Helping them out is GeoInsight's Jeff King. **2.** Liquor World of Cromwell owner Arun Lillaney and his wife Karishma enjoy the evening. **3.** Garry Mullaney, president and CEO of Ädelbrook, visits with some of his staff including teachers Katlin Tyrol and Emily Cook, behavioralist Kelly Pisapia and teacher Paola Pappa. **4.** Radio personality and emcee Renee DiNino visits with longtime Ädelbrook volunteer Marty Zibuda. Later in the evening he was honored for his work in soliciting donations, selling tickets to events and mentoring students. **5.** Hilary Brooks of the Hartford Flavor Co. was busy pouring samples of the company's Wild Moon Liqueurs. **6.** John and Crystal Laffan. **7.** Will Evans plays a smooth jam for the crowd. **8.** Lauren Watkins and Barbara Barton enjoy the evening's fare. **9.** Arun Lillaney, owner of Liquor World of Cromwell, enjoys a brew served up by John Williams of Brooklyn Brewery. **10.** Ädelbrook's Heidi Perham and Sharon Graves work to make sure the evening is a success. **11.** Garry Mullaney, president and CEO of Ädelbrook, center, visits with Tony and Diane Petras. Tony Petras serves as chairman of the board of directors for Ädelbrook Community Services, Inc. **12.** Liberty Bank, one of the fundraiser's sponsors, had Jackie Legendre and Geena Dinos selling teacup raffle tickets.

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LIFE *in the classroom*

Students work to Build a Better World

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

It all began with a simple competition. Lucille DiTunno, principal of Edna C. Stevens School, challenged the entire student body to read a combined total of 5,000 books over the summer, surpassing last year's goal by 1,000.

While most years the school celebrates summer reading with a small event, such as a literacy parade or a guest magician, the reward for this challenge would be something much larger – an entire day away from classes and devoted to fun and educational games and activities.

"It's all about motivating kids to read," DiTunno said. "We are working to instill the love of reading."

The new incentive certainly worked. As of press time, the total number of books read by students over the summer was 5,526 with some classrooms not yet reported.

With the goal surpassed, a team of teachers and administrators continued working on their plans for the big event. Inspired by the state's summer reading theme of "build a better world," the day included a variety of science, math and community-based projects.

"There will be a variety of stations, all focusing on different areas," DiTunno explained.

Sponsored largely by the school's Parent-Teacher Organization, each station provides an activity for students in the theme of building, such as the Build Your Creativity station with arts and crafts projects and the Build Your Imagination station filled with LEGOs.

Prior to the event, students and staff also brought in a great deal of household items to be repurposed at the Build a Healthy Planet station. Students had the opportunity to create using fully recycled materials.

Some of those donated materials were also used in the Build Your Community station. Students worked together to create scarecrows that will be placed throughout the schools and municipal buildings in town.

"We're hoping to be able to put them into some businesses in town, too," pre-K teacher Karen Ambler said. "So far we've gotten a great response from the community. Cromwell Energy oil company heard about it and wrote out a $100 check to help with supplies."

Other stations during the day included time reading by the school's newly installed Little Free Library as well as a large project for second-graders to build a GeoDome. This is an undertaking that mixes math, science, architecture and team building to create a gigantic dome structure that could hold seating for 30 people.

"We plan to have the kids have lunch inside," DiTunno said.

While each of the stations focuses on some form of math, science or creativity, for those involved in the planning it is the elements of fun and teamwork that made it all worthwhile.

"It's really about building that literacy community," Library Media Specialist Alison Dougherty said. "Some kids can start a project and let others continue it."

"It's important for students to learn that sense of team building to be good community members," DiTunno added.

Those involved in the planning hope that by having incentives for reading be experiential, students will be able to find the joy in learning.

"The reward for something doesn't have to be getting a toy from Toys 'R' Us or some object," Ambler said.

With the event, staff and faculty at the school also hope to kick off even more activities that fit into the larger Build a Better World theme.

"We want to continue this through the year, building respect, building empathy," Ambler said. "It's not one and done with this day. It's something we want to build on."

The staff also hopes to continue building on the momentum of reading by stressing how important it is throughout the year.

"It's not just reading in school, it's reading as part of their life," Reading Specialist Eva Musumeci said.

"At first they're learning to read, but then they're reading to learn," Ambler added.

For all students, especially the younger ones who are unable to read on their own, parent involvement is critical in instilling a love of reading.

"Family support, sitting and reading with your kids, is so important," Musumeci said. "We value and we know the great value of them reading with their children."

DiTunno feels fortunate to be in a town that recognizes that value.

"We're very grateful for the family support and involvement in this community," she said.

Events like the Build a Better World Day would not be possible without members of the wider community coming together to help, the group said.

"We want to say thank you for the community support," Ambler said. "Not only did people donate physical things, but the number of volunteers is just amazing." CL

Seven-year-old Aubrey Manning sat under her portion of a large dome children built together.

Using recycled materials donated by the community, 7-year-old Anish Redravajhala, left, and 6-year-old Jack Klopfer created a model of a rocket ship.

Letters

Wygonowski gets his vote

To the Editor:

On Nov. 7, Steve Wygonowski will be running as a member of our Board of Finance. I first met Steve over 10 years ago as a volunteer for the Cromwell Boy Scouts program. Many years later, Steve continues to be an active, dedicated volunteer and advisor to this program.

In addition to providing oversight of the Boy Scout troop, Steve also actively leads the Group of Citizens, a Cromwell volunteer entity that is the troop-sponsoring organization. In this capacity, Steve provides direction and is responsible for the troop finances, as well as the finances of the building that the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts use in town.

Steve's dedication to this program, with his many years of service, have helped to ensure that this valuable town program has remained both strong in programming and finances.

I am confident that as a dedicated town resident Steve will bring an intelligent, logical and sound perspective on our town finances and will help to ensure that our town is fiscally responsible. I fully support and endorse Steve for this position and ask you all to consider the same on Election Day.

– Rob Goldstein

Matrullo makes his case

To the Editor:

My name is Jeff Matrullo. I am running for re-election to Cromwell's Board of Education and I hope to have your support in November's election.

I am proud of the board's accomplishments over the past four years. To name a few, we have successfully implemented new, innovative teaching methods, such as the Freshmen Academy at Cromwell High School and multi-age classrooms at Woodside Intermediate School. We have also expanded the district's pre-K programs.

In this time where everyone must do more with less, we have adopted responsible budgets while continuing to improve the quality of our schools' educational and extracurricular programs.

In addition, over this past term I have served as chair of the board's Policy Committee, whose primary focus has been to update and modernize the district's policy manual. Among the new policies we have adopted are a coaches' code of conduct and ethics and policies to foster collaboration and communication between students' families and district personnel.

If re-elected, I will continue to work with my colleagues on the board and our administration, teachers, staff, parents and students to make sure our educators and students are in the best position to succeed. I will continue to support initiatives that further our mission of placing students first.

Thank you for allowing me to have served on the board these past four years. With your support on Nov. 7, I hope to serve our community for another four years.

– Jeff Matrullo

Slade requests support

To the Editor:

My name is Samantha Slade and I am running for reelection to Cromwell's Town Council in the upcoming municipal election on Nov. 7. I have been blessed to serve the people of Cromwell over the past two years and am honored to have been nominated for reelection.

It has been wonderful serving as town councilor and working on behalf of the citizens of Cromwell. Standing up and representing those who elected me is something I do not take lightly. I listen to resident's concerns and always vote with them in mind.

Most nights of the week and weekends I am away from home attending town meetings or community events because I believe that it is imperative I am involved in what is happening in Cromwell in order to adequately represent its citizens.

I have worked diligently alongside the mayor and my colleagues on the Town Council to ensure a business friendly environment, that quality services are rendered, and that citizens' needs are met, all while ensuring fiscal responsibility during a time of economic turmoil in this state.

I am as energized and devoted as ever to continuing this important work and hope to earn Cromwell residents' support again this November. For more information about me, or to reach me with any questions, please visit www.facebook.com/SladeForCromwell or email SladeForCromwell@gmail.com.

– Samantha Slade

Merli seeks support

To the Editor:

My name is Lindsey Merli and I was nominated for a position on the Cromwell Board of Education. As a parent of three young children and a proud member of the community, I would be honored to volunteer my time and dedication to further the enrichment of our Cromwell children.

My main focus will always be to put Cromwell's resources to their best use to maximize the potential of our students. I look forward to working together with the current members on the Board of Education in making the important educational decisions that affect our Cromwell students.

When making these decisions, I want to hear your concerns and will ensure your voice is heard on the Cromwell Board of Education. I hope to meet you at one of the upcoming town events and I would be honored to have your support in November.

– Lindsey Merli

Praise for Demetriades

To the Editor:

I write to express my support for James Demetriades as a candidate for Cromwell Town Council. I have known James since he was a toddler and have been impressed from the beginning. Do not let his age fool you, this young man is wise and talented well beyond his years.

A Cromwell resident for essentially his entire life, he loves this town and the people in it. Even though he is in his third year as a very successful law student and student leader at Quinnipiac University, he lives in Cromwell, rather than somewhere closer to campus, and he is invested in Cromwell's well being.

His study of the law is one of the impetuses for his interest in politics and he has worked on campaigns for candidates for local, state and federal offices. He understands government and all that goes along with it.

He is not like stereotypical politicians. He is collaborative and understands the need to reach across the aisle. He is well versed on the ideas and issues, but is also is willing to own it and apologize when he makes a mistake.

He listens to what people say to him and wants to bring the will of the people to fruition. He is high energy, has an infectious personality, and approaches everything he does with an open mind and a positive attitude.

He would be an asset to the government of our town. I am certain that he can work with all of the members of our Town Council in a collaborative and constructive way to make our town even better than it is.

There are many talented candidates for Town Council this November. I will be casting one of my votes for James Demetriades, and I hope you do as well.

– Marjorie Lemmon

Promotes GOP school board candidates

To the Editor:

I am honored to serve as the chairman of the Cromwell Board of Education. I ask you to consider supporting the Republican Board of Education candidates Celina Kelleher, Jeff Matrullo, Lindsey Merli and me on Nov. 7.

Although I've lived in Cromwell for 19 years, am happily married to my wife of 23 years, Terri, and we are the proud parents of a CHS eleventh-grader Megan and a CMS eighth-grader Jessica, none of those are good enough reasons to vote for me. However, I hope you'll find my following beliefs helpful as you decide how to vote.

Openness and respect are vital. We must engage in lively and open debate, respectfully challenging each other's assumptions and opinions, and sharing our passionately held beliefs without fear of being shouted down or ignored.

We must be open to hearing each voice and must encourage dissent. I'm proud that our board members have embraced this inclusive

Letters continued

approach because it's the best way to find new and creative ways to better serve our students.

Cromwell is a great small town. I'm proud to call Cromwell home. The strength of our schools and our community is driven by our involved, enthusiastic and dedicated staff and residents.

If you ever doubt that Cromwell is a great small town, show up at a school musical, a high school football game on a fall Friday night, a fun PTO event, a district art show highlighting student artists of all ages, or an open house with classrooms packed with interested parents.

All that's best about Cromwell will allow us to continue to bring our schools to the next level. I believe this can only be accomplished by continuing to enhance our culture of transparency, honesty and accountability so people always know they can make a difference.

We must take risks. Whether adding to our arts offerings, creating a new club or team, trying something we haven't tried before – Freshman Academy, Hot Blocks, multi-age fourth and fifth grade classroom, 1:1 digital device initiative – or providing our faculty and staff with more flexibility to creatively educate their students, we must always be looking for bold new ways to educate our students so they can each maximize their potential.

Sometimes those ideas will fail, but we must keep encouraging risk taking and creativity. Please e-mail me at mikecamilleri13@gmail.com with any questions. I hope you'll support the Cromwell Republicans on Nov. 7. Thank you.

– Mike Camilleri

The positives outweigh the negatives

To the Editor:

Yes, this is the election season and sometimes we get caught up in the negative. What is wrong and what it is we just are upset about. So I just want to talk about the other side of things.

First, let me give a shout out to all of those who show up everyday to work for us, all of us. They are the police officers, the firemen and women, the first responders, the EMTs and ambulance personnel, present and past. They are the people who plow our streets and roads, mow the grass on town property take care and maintain our schools and town buildings: the town hall, the police station, the town library building and the other structures that keep our town running.

Yes, they get paid, however many of them also are part of the volunteers for other things and causes as well.

Then there all of the volunteers who coach youth sports and/or help raise money for those youth sports. Volunteers raise money for many other things and charities, scholarships, the food kitchens, food banks and the list goes on and on. We see them everywhere.

For most of what they do there is no pay except perhaps for the satisfaction of knowing our town is better off for what they do. These volunteers are everywhere. You can find them in our churches and clubs, reaching out and helping out, doing whatever they can and giving as much as they can afford.

I would ask you to join in with me and say thanks to our police and fire personnel, but also to anyone who you know that is doing what they can to make this a better place to live.

There other groups that give to our tow. They are those who run for and serve on all of the boards and commissions that help the political, governmental parts of our town function, all without pay. Often they put in long hours of service to the town and for the most part they get little recognition for what they do.

They are Democrats, Republicans and independents. To all of them as well, I ask you to join me in saying an occasional thank you. They are our fellow citizens and it is all of them that inspire me every day to do what I am doing.

This town is my home and yours. And at the end of the day we are not Democrats, Republicans or independents, conservatives or liberals, we are just friends and neighbors. The rest of the stuff doesn't really matter.

– Kenneth Smith Jr.
Candidate for Mayor

Emanuele deserves election

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to express my support for Frank Emanuele who is currently running for re-election to Cromwell's Town Council. As a member of both the community and Cromwell's Board of Education, I have had the opportunity to work with Frank on numerous occasions.

He has always been diligent, professional and engaged, making informed and thoughtful decisions. Frank has dedicated a large portion of his time to serving the town of Cromwell. He served for 12 years on Cromwell's Board of Education and another six on Cromwell's Town Council.

Throughout the years he has strived to help Cromwell become the best that it could be. He is always willing to go out of his way to help those around him who need a helping hand and his kind heart shows through his actions.

I feel fortunate that we have someone like Frank representing us in our town government and I hope that you will join with me in voting for him on Nov. 7.

– Megan Midgley

Board of Finance continued

both the general government and education budgets, it is equally important for members of the board to avoid burdening the residents with a level of taxation they can't reasonably afford.

2. At this time, the state's fiscal crisis has become the town's. We need to be certain that Cromwell can provide necessary services to its residents in the face of potentially declining state aid without further burdening our own taxpayers. This will be our greatest challenge.

3. Controlling taxes should always the top priority of the board. We should always be searching for additional ways to control spending and to increase non-tax revenues.

Cromwell has been fortunate to have a great staff over the years managing our finances and ensuring the continuance of our generally sound financial management practices is a high priority.

4. In light of my previous 18 years of service to the town with the Board of Finance, I hope the people of our town will once again honor me by allowing me to represent the interests of the taxpayers of Cromwell on the board.

Joseph Corlis
Democrat

1. If needed, I would talk to the superintendent, assistant superintendent, and principals about

Continued on page 31

Joseph Corlis

Editorial

Vote, because you can

There will be an election Nov. 7, as there is every November for one office or another. The 2017 election is all about this town. It's casting a ballot for those fellow residents who have put themselves before the public to serve on the Town Council, Board of Education and other bodies.

More people vote in presidential elections and they should not be discouraged from doing that. But the simple truth is that no election has greater impact upon us than the municipal one.

Residents will be selecting the people who determine how this town will be run. They will determine the services they receive as taxpayers, how their children are educated and protected while in school, and so much more.

The people on the ballot are also the people who will determine how much each business and homeowner pays in property taxes. That impacts most families more than anything that happens at the state or national levels of government.

These men and women are community volunteers who are willing to spend a significant amount of their time serving the greater good. They may have different political parties, approaches and philosophies, but they all have the same goal – to do the best they can for this town, its people and its schools.

They are not in it for personal gain.

The mayor does not get a paycheck for doing this. Neither does any member of the council or school board. Not even a modest stipend. Nothing.

There are places around the world where people do not have the right to vote or are struggling to acquire it. There are places where people are willing to stand in line for an hour or more to cast their ballot.

The right to vote is one of the greatest individual liberties Americans enjoy. Yet more and more people don't bother to participate in the political process until it's time to pick a president.

Local elections have at times been decided by only a handful of votes.

Each vote cast in a municipal election truly matters.

Vote because it's your right. Vote because it's your civic responsibility.

Vote to make a difference. Vote simply because you can.

It only takes a few minutes to go to the polling place, walk into the building, fill out a ballot and then go about the rest of the day or evening. That's not an imposition.

Show that you care about your town by participating in one of most special and treasured American traditions. **CL**

Board of Finance continued

what they really need to provide for their educational needs. Talk to the town manager and department heads in the town about what their departments need to function efficiently. With this information, the Board of Finance can control expenses and property taxes.

2. Due to the expected financial cuts from the state of Connecticut to the town and the Board of Education through a reduction in Education Cost Sharing. This will require a discussion between the Board of Finance, Board of Education and Town Council as to making funds available as needed.

3. If I am re-elected to the Board of Finance I don't see any major changes being made at this time.

4. Resident of Cromwell for 46 years, retired chemist from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Army veteran with the 63rd Artillery Group in New Britain, with my last duty station being the Cromwell Nike base.

Education: B.A. chemistry, B.S. business, MBA business, graduate certificate in finance.

Boards and Commissions: Board of Finance, 10 years; liaison from Board of Finance to Board of Education, 10 years; Inland Wetlands Commission, 15 years; Conservation Commission, 15 years; board of directors Cromwell Hills, phase 1, 20 years.

I look forward to serving the town of Cromwell and ask for your vote. **CL**

Cromwell LIFE

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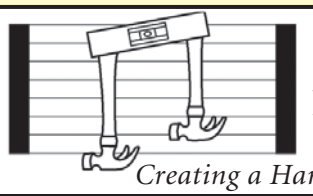

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Gamblers Anonymous can help you. Take back your life. Phone: 855-2-CALL-GA 855-222-5542 to speak with someone. Gamblers Anonymous is a non-profit fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from a gambling problem. www.gamblersanonymous.org.

Overeaters Anonymous

FOOD: Are you over-involved with food? Would you like that to be different? Consider attending an OA meeting and find out what is involved. For more information, meeting times and places call CT OA at 860-840-2475, or look us up at: www.ConnecticutOA

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Events spotlight

Cromwell government agencies, schools, businesses, clubs, churches and all other civic organizations are invited to send us their upcoming events for inclusion in events spotlight and/or the community calendar. We also welcome people notes and news briefs for news roundup. You can send them to us at mjahne@turleyct.com or Cromwell LIFE, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.

Pre-School Halloween Special

Oct. 31, 10-11:30 a.m.
Town Hall Gym
41 West St.
860-632-3467 or cromwellrec.com
Join Miss Jess and Miss Marcia in making Halloween crafts, reading a story and enjoying a snack before parading through town hall to trick or treat. Costumes are welcome. Admission is free but prior online registration is required.

Holiday Craft Fair

Nov. 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Cromwell Middle School
centralctcommunitywomensclub.com
This 42nd annual event of the Central Connecticut Community Women's Club features more than 70 craft booths, a bake sale, gift basket drawing and lunch. Funds raised will be disbursed at the end of the club year to support various educational and civic purposes in Cromwell and its neighboring towns.

Nutmeg Fair and Tag Sale

Nov. 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
First Congregational Church
355 Main St.
fcccromwell.org
Browse through the giant tag sale and look for bargains, perhaps vintage items or jewelry. The bake sale will have lots of homemade items and features freshly baked or frozen apple pies. The basket raffle will give many chances to win a themed basket of goodies. Relax at the Brunch Bar and peruse the luncheon choices.

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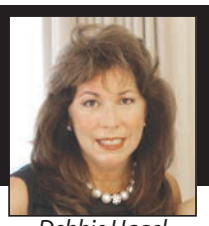

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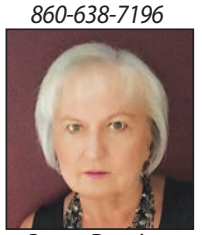

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SOLD 13 Kent Street
SOLD 45 Nassau Circle
SOLD 65 Geer Street
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SOLD 74 Court Street
SOLD 4 Lilac Court
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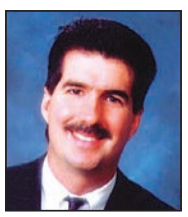

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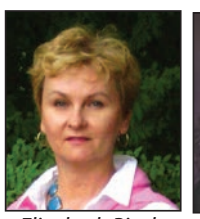

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